

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 97-114-G - ORDER NO. 97-574
JULY 7, 1997

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IN RE: Request of 17 People Residing on) ORDER
Baker Road, Jefferson, South Carolina,) GRANTING
to Obtain Natural Gas Service from) SERVICE
South Carolina Electric & Gas Company.)

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the request of seventeen (17) people residing on Baker Road in Jefferson, South Carolina to obtain natural gas service from South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G or the Company).

A hearing was held on this matter on June 26, 1997 at 2:30 P.M. in the offices of the Commission, with the Honorable Guy Butler, Chairman, presiding. Maurice Mitten, one of the petitioners for gas, appeared and testified. SCE&G was represented by Catherine D. Taylor, Esquire and Steve A. Matthews, Esquire. SCE&G presented the testimony of Jane Weaver. The Commission Staff (the Staff) was represented by F. David Butler, General Counsel. The Staff presented no witnesses.

Maurice Mitten, one of the petitioners, testified to his desire for gas service from SCE&G at his new home. Mitten also testified that there are presently eighteen (18) homes and one (1) church along Baker Road in Jefferson, South Carolina. In addition,

there are three (3) new homes to be built within the near future, which includes Mr. Mitten's. According to Mr. Mitten, there are a total of twenty-two (22) potential natural gas customers on Baker Road. Mitten also points to areas near Baker Road which are being served with natural gas by SCE&G. Mitten also asks that the Commission order SCE&G to assess a reasonable hook-up fee for gas service from the Company.


Jane Weaver, Manager of Natural Gas Operations for the Hartsville and Cheraw Districts of SCE&G, testified for the Company. SCE&G did an economic feasibility study of the provision of gas service to Mr. Mitten and the other petitioners, and concluded that a contribution of \$918.22 per customer for all seventeen (17) customers would be required to provide natural gas service to Baker Road. The total cost to serve only Mr. Mitten would be \$17,386, with Mr. Mitten paying \$15,928.

We have examined this matter and have concluded that SCE&G should provide gas service to at least the seventeen (17) petitioners in this Docket. We think good cause has been stated for provision of the service. We recognize, however, that the customers should make a contribution toward the provision of the service, as the area of service is fairly isolated. Accordingly, we hold that SCE&G shall provide gas service to at least the seventeen (17) petitioners in this case, contingent on the payment by each of the 17 petitioners of a contribution in aid of construction of \$300. All 17 must pay before the Company is required to furnish the service. Further, the Company may accrue

AFUDC on their investment until the next gas rate case (investment minus contributions in aid of construction).

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Deputy Executive Director

(SEAL)